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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 000097

SIPDIS

BAGHDAD FOR AMBASSADOR ERELI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/19/2019
TAGS: [PREL](#) [AORC](#) [ICJ](#) [KV](#) [BA](#)
SUBJECT: BAHRAIN WILL FOLLOW SAUDIS' LEAD ON KOSOVO

REF: A. STATE 11928
[1](#)B. 08 MANAMA 106

Classified By: CDA Christopher Henzel for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) MFA Bilateral Relations Director Dhafer Al Umran told CDA on February 17 that Bahrain would coordinate with others in the region on recognizing Kosovo's independence. He reiterated that message with A/DCM on February 18, gesturing over his shoulder towards Saudi Arabia.

[1](#)2. (C) Comment: The FM has said previously that Bahrain would eventually recognize Kosovo, but that it would move "collectively with the GCC." (ref B) Bahrain is unlikely to get out ahead of the Saudis on Kosovo.

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HENZEL